



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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Special Events Alerts

Would you like to get special events notifications by e-mail? Send us an e-mail at ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov and let us know!

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Bringing Grant from History to Film



A crew from Aperture Films was on-site November 6 and 7 to shoot scenes for the new park film. Above, Ulysses S. Grant, played by Brian McCarthy, rides to White Haven to propose to Julia. The camera is pushed on a dolly, which runs on tracks designed to keep the camera moving as smoothly as possible. Note the monitor, which shows the crew exactly what the camera sees. Below, in a scene set during Grant's time on the West Coast before the Civil War, Julia, played by Sarah Kalil, sits in White Haven's front yard while Fred, played by Max Silver, plays with quoits nearby. The new film will premiere sometime in the fall of 2013.



Grant, Lincoln, and the End of the American Civil War

In addition to actor Daniel Day-Lewis who portrays Abraham Lincoln in the new film, Lincoln, there are hundreds of men who depict Lincoln at reenactments, meetings, and on film. There is even an organization, The Association of Lincoln Presenters, which meets annually to promote historically accurate portrayals of the 16th president.

In most cases, as in the new film, Lincoln rightly takes center stage, with other historical figures receiving minor roles. Such is the case with the portrayal of Ulysses S. Grant in Lincoln. Grant (played by Jared Harris) is in just a few scenes. He appears older, heavier, and taller than Grant actually was in early 1865. Anyone familiar with the iconic image of the general at Cold Harbor will undoubtedly notice the differences.

More important is what Grant does in the film. He meets with three men sent by Confederate President Jefferson Davis to



This image of Grant was taken by Mathew Brady at Cold Harbor, Virginia, in June 1864. Brady spent time traveling behind Union lines and this picture, which has come to represent Grant to many people, was one of multitudes taken during this time. Grant wrote to Julia on June 19, 1864: "Brady is along with the Army and is taking a great many views and will send you a copy of each."

discuss a possible cessation of hostilities in January 1865. The film doesn't explain Grant's motivation, leaving many viewers with the stereotypical

view of Grant as a man with little political skill and indifferent to war's misery. A little more background is presented here.

The three men, Stephens, Campbell, and Hunter, brought an offer of peace "between two countries." Grant quickly stopped the discussion, knowing that Lincoln rejected the southern states' legal authority to secede and establish a new nation. His suggested revisions to the offer were made, allowing Grant to write Lincoln and recommend a meeting between the president and the "peace commissioners."

Grant anticipated that news of a truce might persuade Confederate soldiers, already greatly demoralized, to desert from the army, thereby ending the war sooner and with less loss of life. The meeting did not produce the desired result and Grant, with Lincoln's support, continued his plans for bringing a military end to the war.

Winter Author Lectures Bring Insight on Diverse Histories

This winter we are pleased to welcome two authors to the park to discuss their work on different experiences of the Civil War and 19th century American history. On January 12, author Scott W. Berg will present a lecture and a book signing on his new book, 38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow, and the Beginning of the

Frontier's End. This book explores the Sioux Wars in Minnesota that were waged during the Civil War and the aftermath that resulted in the largest mass execution in American history.

Young adult author and historian Patricia McKissack will join us on February 2 to

speak on her writing and research on the African American experience of the 19th century, and her belief in the importance of education and awareness of past struggles by people today.

For more information on either program, please call the park at 314-842-1867 x230.

**Spotlight on the Park:
Automatic Doors**

Entering and exiting the park visitor center and museum just became easier. New automatic doors were installed in December.



These automatic sliding glass doors make entering and exiting the museum much easier for everyone.

The visitor center doors can now be opened at the touch of a button, and sensors on the sliding glass museum doors will open them automatically as people approach. Everyone from visitors in wheelchairs to couriers carrying packages will appreciate not having to struggle with pulling the doors open.

Visitors with a keen eye may note that the park also has new gates to the parking lot. These gates slide to the sides making for a much cleaner look to the entrance. The automatic features of these gates allow the staff to come and go during non-business hours without having to leave their cars. We are very excited about these new accessibility improvements to the park.

Meet the Staff: Facility Manager Mike Hayden

The park staff welcomes new facility manager Mike Hayden. Mike comes to us from Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, where he has spent the last four and a half years as a maintenance mechanic. Mike started with the National Park Service as a maintenance worker at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. Prior to joining the NPS, Mike worked for the Department of Defense in the Navy shipyards in California and Washington



Mike Hayden

for over 27 years.

Mike is from California. His family includes his wife, two daughters, a son-in-law, and a grandson. He replaces former facility manager Brad Fudge, who left ULSG last fall to pursue a new career. We are excited for Mike to join the ULSG team and look forward to his work with us.

Kids' Corner: Presidential Sites, Presidential States

There are many NPS sites dedicated to presidents: monuments and birthplaces, homes and other special locations. Can you match each president's NPS site with the state where it is located?



Mount Rushmore

- 1) General Grant National Memorial
- 2) Harry S Truman National Historic Site
- 3) Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 4) Adams National Historic Park
- 5) George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 6) Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- 7) Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 8) Mount Rushmore National Monument
- 9) Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

- A) Georgia
- B) Virginia
- C) Pennsylvania
- D) North Dakota
- E) Massachusetts
- F) South Dakota
- G) Missouri
- H) Illinois
- I) New York

Answers: 1-I, 2-G, 3-H, 4-E, 5-B, 6-D, 7-C, 8-F, 9-A



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Upcoming Events

- January 12: Scott Berg, professor at George Mason University, will discuss his latest book, 38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow and the Beginning of the Frontier's End. Berg explores this incident in our nation's history through the personalities involved. Call 314-842-1867 for reservations.
- February 2: Patricia McKissack, an author and teacher, will discuss her writings for children and young adults about African Americans from 1800-1900.
- February 23: "Lincoln Comes to White Haven" - Fritz Klein performs a first-person interpretation of Abraham Lincoln discussing his hopes and fears about General Grant.
- March 23: "Night at the Museum" at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial will feature living history characters from many time periods. Call 1-877-982-1410 for reservations after February 1.
- April 27: Junior Ranger Day at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will feature activities from different NPS sites for children of all ages.

Did you know?

In March of 1863, Fred Grant came to Vicksburg to join his father, General Grant, at the headquarters there. Fred recounted his experiences in the New York World many years later, saying that while he watched a Confederate retreat, a

sharp-shooter fired at him and hit him in the leg. He said, "The wound was slight but very painful, and I suppose I was very pale, for Colonel Lagow came dashing up and asked what was the matter. 'I am killed!' I promptly said." Of course, Fred wasn't killed.

His wound kept him at headquarters, though. He said, "Because of this I saw a great deal of my father's methods, his marvelous attention to detail, and his cool self-possession. I also witnessed the devotion of his men to him."